

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0633-US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENSURING SCALABLE MASTERSHIP
DURING INITIALIZATION OF A SYSTEM AREA NETWORK**

A method in a network computing system for managing a plurality of subnet managers in the network computing system. An identification is received of a set of subnet managers within the plurality of subnet managers. The set of subnet managers is allowed to participate in a master election to select a master subnet manager. Subnet managers other than the set of subnet managers are placed in a dormant state. The master subnet manager is elected from the set of subnet managers through the master election, wherein other subnet managers within the number of subnet managers poll the master subnet manager to allow the other subnet managers to elect a new master subnet manager if the master subnet manager fails.